

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9582

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4124

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, US, UN

SUBJECT: PLO FUND RAISING IN US

REF: USUN 3899

1. PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER TERZI MET WITH MISOFF AT 4:00 P.M. OCTOBER 1 IN INDONESIAN LOUNGE IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING WHERE MISOFF CONVEYED INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING PLO FUND RAISING. MISOFF REVIEWED BRIEFLY BACKGROUND INCLUDING ALLEGATION OF FUND RAISING IN ANDERSON/WHITTEN COLUMN AND UN LEGAL COUNSEL SUY'S DEMARCHE. TERZI REITERATED THAT PLO OBSERVER OFFICE AND INFORMATION OFFICE HAD NOT BEEN AND DID NOT INTEND EVER TO BECOME ENGAGED IN FUND RAISING OR IN ANY MONEY ACTIVITIES. MISOFF QUERIED IF TERZI MEANT THAT HASAN ABDUL RAHMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE PLO INFORMATION OFFICE, WAS CLEARLY NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN RAISING FUNDS FOR PLO. TERZI REPLIED AFFIRMATEVELY AND ELABORATED BY NOTING THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN BEIRUT FOR THE OPERATION OF BOTH THE OBSERVER AND INFORMATION OFFICES WERE CATEGORICAL IN EXCLUDING THE OFFICES FROM ALL "MONEY ACTIVITIES." TERZI ADDED THAT MOREOVER HE AND RAHMAN DID NOT HAVE TIME FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES.

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2. (COMMENT: TERZI SAID THE CHECK OF APPROXIMATELY \$4,000 FOR OUBEIDI ARRIVED WHEN OUBEIDI WAS VISITING NEW YORK. TERZI INDICATED THAT THERE WERE OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES AT THAT TIME DIRECTED TOWARD OUBEIDI FROM PALESTINIANS AND PALESTINIAN/AMERICANS LIVING IN THE US. TERZI OBSERVED THAT THE SUM OF \$4,000 WAS A PALTRY TOKEN, CONSIDERING THE WEALTH OF SOME OF THE PALESTINIANS LIVING IN THE US. HE COMMENTED THAT WERE HE OUBEIKI HE WOULD REFUSE ANYTHING LESS THAN \$50,000. TERZI CONCLUDED THAT THE OBSERVER OFFICE OCCASIONALLY RECEIVES CALLS FROM POTENTIAL DONORS, ONE RECENTLY ASKING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RED CRESCENT, WHOM HE DIRECTED TO SEND THE MONEY DIRECTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION'S HEADQUARTERS.)

3. MISOFF THEN CONVEYED PRECISELY TO TERZI THE REQUEST TO CONSIDER TERMINATING RAHMAN'S DUAL STATUS AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PLO OBSERVER OFFICE AND "ACTING DIRECTOR" PLO INFORMATION OFFICE. TERZI LISTENED CAREFULLY TO EXPLANATION OF HOW DUAL HATS FOR RAHMAN WAS INAPPROPRIATE AND COULD CAUSE CONFUSION. TERZI SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION AND THAT TIMING OF OUR REQUEST WAS OPPORTUNE SINCE HIS FOREIGN MINISTER KADDOUMI WAS NOT IN NEW YORK ENABLING AN IMMEDIATE DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM. TERZI PROJECTED THAT WITH KADDOUMI'S AGREEMENT, RAHMAN'S POSITION COULD BE "CRYSTALLIZED" BY THE TIME KADDOUMI RETURNS TO NEW YORK FOR THE GA DEBATE ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IN MID-NOVEMBER, AND THAT BY THE END OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RAHMAN WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DROP ONE OF HIS HATS. TERZI ANTICIPATED THAT KADDOUMI WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION.

4. TERZI CLARIFIED THAT THE PLO INFORMATION OFFICE HAS A SEPARATE BANK ACCOUNT AND SEPARATE FILES FROM THE PLO OBSERVER OFFICE ALTHOUGH THEY SHARE THE SAME OFFICE SUITE, TELEPHONES, AND CLERICAL STAFF. TERZI VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROSPECT OF BEING AUDITED BY A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TEAM REVIEWING THOSE REGISTERED UNDER THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT. HE SAID HE WAS OF COURSE READY FOR WHENEVER SUCH AN AUDIT WOULD TAKE PLACE.

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5. (COMMENT: TERZI'S ALACRITY IN ACCEPTING OUR REQUEST FOR THE SEPARATION OF THE FUNCTIONS AND PERSONNEL OF THE INFORMATION AND OBSERVER OFFICES SUGGESTS THAT TERZI MAY HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD HIS OWN STAFF, OR TO MOVE RAHMAN.)
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